Further action in these four cases will depend on the result of the investigation.

(d) As per the mechanism provided for in the process of selection of dealers/distributors by the OMCs, the chances of benami allotment of dealerships/distributorships are little.

At the time of interview of the applicants, the documents furnished by them along with their applications are verified with reference to the original copies of the documents. Thereafter, on receipt of the merit panel of selected candidates, the oil company concerned conducts the field investigation in respect of the selected candidate. During this investigation, the factual data given by the candidate in his application is again verified.

In addition, the oil company officers, while inspecting the retail outlets frequently, monitor whether the signatories to the dealership agreements are managing the dealerships personally. If any doubt arises, then bank documents, sales tax registration, income tax returns, retail selling licences and other relevant documents, etc. are checked to ensure that there is no benami operation. Whenever, any case of operation of retail outlet by persons not allotted the dealership is detected, the matter is investigated and if this is established, action is taken in line with the dealership/ distributorship agreement.

Temporary Allotment of Petrol Pumps

†2009. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the allocation of petrol pumps made from the 1st April, 2003 to the 30th September, 2004 under selection procedure, the guiding principles for constitution of Board have been fully followed and whether the allocations have also been made for operating petrol pumps temporarily before allocation through selection procedure; and

(b) if so, the numbers thereof and the details of such persons alongwith their addresses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Within the framework of broad parameters

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

laid down by Government, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have laid down their respective guidelines for the selection of dealers for retail outlets (petrol pumps), etc., including that for the constitution of selection committees, for making selections of dealers and allotment of dealerships to the selected candidates. Selection of dealers for petrol pumps during the period 1st April, 2003 to 30th September, 2004 has been made in accordance with the guidelines.

In respect of 'A' site (company-owned) retail outlets, where land has already been acquired by the companies pending selection of dealers, oil companies usually take action to set up the retail outlets and start the operation in order to avoid loss in keeping the facilities idle and to ensure that the consumers do not suffer. Such outlets are operated by the companies on a company-owned-company-operated (COCO)/ad hoc basis till the selection of regular dealers is completed and the outlets are handed over to the selected dealers. 1242 retail outlets were commissioned on a COCO/ad hoc basis by the OMCs during the period 1st April, 2003 to 30th September, 2004.

Impact of Ethanol Blended Petrol

2010. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the ethanol-doped petrol, a green fuel, launched by Government;

(b) in what manner it would help to lessen the demand of petrol;

(c) whether it has been introduced in some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its impact?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) With a view to giving a boost to the agriculture sector and reducing environmental pollution, a decision was taken by the Government in September, 2002, that, with effect from 1.1.2003, only 5% ethanol blended petrol shall be sold in notified States and Union Territories. Blending of ethanol in petrol reduces consumption of petrol to the extent of ethanol blended in petrol.